

32 8. (Amended) A method of eliminating interference by hemoglobin in the determination of alkaline phosphatase in a sample, comprising:

determining a first optical measurement of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm;
adding 4-nitrophenyl phosphate to said sample;
determining a second optical measurement of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm;
and
correcting the second optical measurement with the first optical measurement.

33 16. (amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of determining a first optical measurement is conducted over a period of time of between about 1 and 4 minutes.

19. (new) A method of determining a level of alkaline phosphatase in a sample, the method comprising:

determining a first optical measurement of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm that represents a correlation between the amount of hemoglobin in the sample and the interference due to the hemoglobin; and

adding 4-nitrophenyl phosphate to said sample;
determining a second optical measurement of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm;
correcting the second optical measurement with the first optical measurement.

34 20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the first optical measurement is determined in a pre-reaction.